

Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of 2002 Biennial Regulatory Review -
Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules
and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996,
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking,
MM Docket No. 02-277, (rel. Sept. 23, 2002)

To: The Secretary, FCC Commissioners, and Chief, Media Bureau

I am writing in regards to the FCC's Docket No.
02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast
media ownership rules.

I strongly oppose any further deregulation of the
media. This deregulation is causing fewer and fewer
voices to be heard and has done little to make use of
the media as a tool to stimulate civic participation.

It is clearly counter to the public interest to
allow a handful of corporations to control the
majority of the information received by citizens
and residents of the United States.

Before the FCC and Congress make any decisions on this
matter, there should be extensive surveys done by
independent experts to look at the effects of the
concentration of media ownership on civic engagement
and the diversity of radio, television, and newspaper
content.

To this date, I do not believe this has been done
adequately. The FCC should be actively soliciting
citizen input, yet their pleas are nowhere to be found.
The only place I could find this issue being discussed
was in Mother Jones, Mediafile, The Guardian (London)
and as Project Censored's #1 most censored story of
the year.

Why was this extremely important issue about the FCC
deregulation of media not brought up on ABC, NBC, CBS,
FOX, MSNBC, CNN, NY Times, LA Times et cetera? These
major media outlets should have been informing the
public where to go to get informed on this issue, how
to voice their opinion and that the deadline is Jan 2,
2003. Yet, they did nothing.

Is this because of a conflict of interest?

That is exactly why deregulation of the media is so
dangerous. Allowing the majority of our information
flow to be dominated by a handful of corporations
is detrimental to the democratic need for an informed
and engaged citizenry.

Since this rulemaking strongly effects every US citizen and resident, there should be several public hearings throughout the nation (like the one in Virginia) to get public input on these issues.

As the Executive Director of Media Alliance, a twenty-six year old organization working for greater media democracy, I pledge to help organize such a hearing in Northern California for this purpose.

We look forward to participation by the FCC Commissioners and Congressmembers in such local/regional hearings to consider the will of the people and the best interests of our democracy. I have already left phone messages for the Commissioners and look forward to coordinating with their staffs.

I urge you to stem the tide of media consolidation in the interests of democracy and justice.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,